

From The Editor...

IN THIS ISSUE
Page 2: Jot From Jill
& VE report.
PAGE 3: Minutes
PAGE 9: Sparky
PAGE 12: Museum
Musings....

Happy New year 2010!



Yes, it's another year. Hopefully, this year will turn out a bit better than the two years previous. Here has been some sun activity in the last couple of months, so there's hope!

By this time, another SKN has been put into the history books of the RCT. I hope that some of you were able to participate. There was a fairly big crowd there last Thursday evening. I've never seen so many people trying to get into the W7OS museum before!

Another thing that comes to mind this year is the annual "Barkie" awards. In the coming month, I'll be looking at the last year's Loggers Bark with an eye to the annual Barkie award. The award is given to the person who has made the greatest impact on this publication.

While your truly is the judge and final arbitrator, I am always open to ideas from you, the Loggers Bark reader.

Got any ideas? Send them to me at the address listed on the last page. I welcome any input.

Did you attend the SKN celebration at the clubhouse this first day of January? If you did not, you missed a good time, including the wooden key event. At left, you can see the fine woodwork of our member Harry N7DOE..

It's an adaptation of the old style "camelback" straight key of years past. More information starting on page 12.

Well that's enough from me this month!

CUL es 73 Gary WG7X



A JOT FROM JILL



A JOT FROM JILL

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very **HAPPY NEW YEAR**. Thank you for your support of the Radio Club of Tacoma. As I have said before, each one of us helps in our own way. Many members have had the desire and ability to step forward and really make a huge difference. Others have stood by and cheered. We appreciate what you are able to do and hope that you will continue to make our club one of the best. One way to help out in the coming year even if you are unable to make it to any meetings or functions might be to write an article in the Logger's Bark. You could tell us how you got started in Ham Radio, an interesting story or a tip or two about your favorite radio or gear. We would love to hear from you because **YOU** make our club what it is. May you have the Serenity to: "ACCEPT the things you cannot change, **COURAGE** to change the things you can, and the **WISDOM** to know the difference."

Stay positive and I hope the best for each of you for 2010.

Jill K7Jil
Radio Club of Tacoma President

VE REPORT John AC7WW

Six candidates and eleven Volunteer Examiners were present at the clubhouse of the Radio Club of Tacoma on a very cold Tuesday evening December 8th 2009. Twelve elements were graded with seven being passed.

Three new Technician class operators joined the ranks of the Amateur Service. One candidate passed both element two and three to become a General class. One candidate upgraded to General and one candidate upgraded to Extra.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Harry, W7HSA	Linda, AB7YL	Joe, W7RQ
Steve, AD7VL	Al, AC7BU	Jon, AD7AW
Rich, KK7VH	Jim, N7RHX	Steve, AD7AB
Mike, AD7TH		

The Radio Club of Tacoma VE team wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The next scheduled testing session will be next year on Tuesday, January 12th, 2010.

Radio Club of Tacoma

Board Meeting December 2nd, 2009

The December 2nd 2009 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma. President Jill Palmer K7JIL called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Vice President: Rick Rose – KE7EMW
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Treasurer: Joe Lester K7AWJ
Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY
Board Member: Al Burleson – K7HW
Board Member: Harry Adams – W7HSA

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 12 names on the attendance roster.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: Jill – K7JIL reports Casey WYTV is having several knee surgeries over the next few weeks.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Minutes from the 7 October and 4 November 2009 board meetings were approved as coordinated/corrected by e-mail.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Joe – K7AWJ reported the current checking account balance of \$9,441.78.

A copy of the monthly summary financial report for November, 2009 is attached to the original copy of the minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Rick Rose – KE7EMW reports the membership stands at 340 with three or four pending

Hamfest: Larry -- KD4VOM provided the summary report of this year's Hamfest. By all accounts it was a success. The Hamfest account transferred \$ 3351.96 to the General Checking Account.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Annual Membership Dues: Status – Closed. As required by the Club Bylaws, the Board reviewed the membership dues rates. After a general discussion, including the upcoming annual Budget Review, and the possible impacts of increasing the dues, *A motion was*

Logger's Bark January 2010

made, seconded and passed to maintain the current rates for the coming year.

Crawford Mountain 147.38 2 Meter Repeater:

Status: Closed – Action moved to the recently reconstituted Club Repeater Committee. It has been determined that our current Department of Natural Resources contract lease for the 2 Meter Repeater at Crawford Mountain does not expire 5 January 2016

Club Bylaws Review: Status Open – President Jill – K7JIL is nearing selection of a committee to conduct a review and make recommendations for changes to our Club Bylaws.

Annual Financial Review/Audit: Status – Pending President Jill – K7JIL has appointed Bob Purdom – AD7LJ, Jan Gilbertson – K7HTU to perform the annual financial audit of the Treasurer's books

Budget Planning: Status Pending.

Clubhouse Alarm System: Status Open Purchase of the Alarm System Bill of Materials has been approved. President Jill – K7JIL asked Rick -- KE7EMW to set a date for completion of the replacement Alarm System installation. A 30 January date was set and Rick agreed to secure assistance from members who have already indicated a willingness to help.

Clubhouse Basement Water: Status Tabled Recent rains have not resulted in flooding, but only a damp basement ground.

Clubhouse Furnace: Status Closed -- The Clubhouse Furnace heating element replacement has been completed, and Frank -- AC7JY has been taking bids for insulating the furnace heating ducts. Frank's latest bid was \$1,000.00 and as a result Frank recommended we accept a previous bid of \$500 from a firm that appeared satisfactory. During the discussion the issue of do we really need duct insulation for a facility that is only used a couple of times a week. The heat loss for the limited use of the furnace may not justify the expense of insulating the ducts. *A motion was made, seconded and failed to authorize up to \$ 500.00 to insulate the clubhouse furnace ducts.* Frank AC7JY was thanked for his good work in securing the bids.

Salmon Run: Harry -- W7HSA/Rick -- KE7EMW Status: Open -- Salmon Run Pledges continue to be received, and the current

Radio Club of Tacoma

Clubhouse Maintenance: Status Ongoing – Major progress has been achieved in the Clubhouse Maintenance and repair projects. Since the last meeting, the recessed lighting approved at the November Board meeting has been installed in the W7OS Museum, while the yard and front porch lighting and the Library lighting projects are pending.

Equipment Loan Policy: Status Open – No change since the last meeting

Tube Inventory: Status Open – No change since last meeting

Property Selection Team: Status Pending – No change since the last meeting

Property Management: Status Open – The property management inventory is currently dormant, but is expected to begin again after the new year begins.

W7BUN Estate: Status Open – Since the last meeting we have been informed that there are several items of club equipment remaining at Jerry – W7BUN's place. Jerry's Daughter Margaret will be contacted to arrange a visit to pick up the remaining property.

NEW BUSINESS

HF Antenna Down: The PSK31/HF Station in the Shimmin Room is down.

Mike and Key Hamfest: The March Mike and Key Hamfest Flyer has been received. The Board agreed to register a Club Table at the Mike and Key Hamfest. There was a discussion concerning providing updated inputs to the Mike and Key Pamphlet, and whether to purchase an RCT advertising space. Larry – KD4VOM will determine the rates and provide feedback to the Board.

City Club of Tacoma Data Request: Peter – AD7EU asked for non personal data to support a City Club of Tacoma demographic study. No personal information is needed or wanted. The Board asked Rick – KE7EMW to prepare the data for review by the board and a release decision.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Communications Engineering:

RCT Repeater Committee: Status In Progress – President Jill -- K7JIL announced the appointment of a renewed Repeater Committee on November 11th. Jill – K7JIL appointed Al Lentz – W7AML as its chairman. Al announced the members of the committee as Nick Winter –

Logger's Bark January 2010

K7MO, Gary McAdams – WG7X, Rich Patrick – KR7W and Chuck Kemmer – AC7QN. There was a discussion of providing inputs and recommendations to the Repeater Committee for their consideration.

147.28 Repeater Relocation: Status In Progress – Al – W7AML reports that the connectors needed have arrived and the next step is to install the cabling.

Dr. Murphy -- N7QHX's 2 Meter Repeater Donation: Status Pending-- President Jill K7JIL reports a recent telephone conversation with Shirley – N7QHW who indicated that she would be sending an e-mail confirmation that Tom has decided to donate his repeater to the Radio Club of Tacoma and wishes it to continue to be available to ARES/RACES operations. There is a monthly telephone fee to support the auto patch function. Al -- K7HW will check the repeater coordination status and report to the Repeater Committee who will assume management of the transition and operation.

Membership Roster: Status – Pending President Jill – K7JIL requested a periodic current Excel spreadsheet version of the basic membership data from Rick – KE7EMW.

W7DK at the Fair: Status Open – The Club continues to seek a replacement manager for the annual W7DK at the Fair as well as protected storage of the Fair display supplies and materials.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Annual Christmas Awards Banquet: All were reminded of this coming Saturday's Annual Awards Banquet which will be held this year at the Lakewood Community Center. Setup will begin around 5:30, and the potluck dinner at 6pm, followed by the annual awards and recognition presentations.

Straight Key Night: All were reminded of this year's Straight Key night at the Clubhouse on New Year's Eve. Rich – KR7W plans to start the affair around 4 pm and invites all to come and enjoy the CW, socializing, a bite to eat and the "Wooden Key" contest...

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm

Radio Club of Tacoma

General meeting Minutes December 9th 2009

The 9 December 2009 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Jill Palmer K7JIL called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL

Vice President: Rick Rose – KE7EMW

Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM

Treasurer:: Joe Lester K7AWJ

Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY

Board Member: Harry Adams – W7HSA

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 49 names on the attendance roster

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by President Jill – K7JIL

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed.

New Calls included John Edmunds – KF7FDZ who recently passed his Tech and General on the same evening. Ward N0AX reported an “upgrade” to first class on a recent Southwest Air flight... Ahem...

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Larry – KD4VOM reports the usual bank statements and utility bills, along with a few Salmon Run pledges and a very very late November election ballot. Our annual insurance bills are also arriving along with the Mike and Key Hamfest Flyer (copies are available at the Clubhouse).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Joe Lester K7AWJ

Financial information available on request.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Rick Rose KE7EMW Reports the membership at 342

Salmon Run: Rick – KE7EMW reports that Salmon Run Pledges continue to be received, and thus far this year's event has generated \$ 4,848.82.

Annual Awards Banquet: Rick – KE7EMW provided an summary report on this year's Annual Awards Banquet which was held last Saturday at the Lakewood Community .center. We had a good crowd, good food, and a year in review video program during the meal. Awards were presented to many. Jill – K7JIL presented this

Logger's Bark January 2010

years “Presidents” award to Bruce Hansen WE7P, and a special “Get ‘Er Done award to Al Ferguson N7OMS and his loyal team of over achievers.

This year Harry Adams – W7HSA received the coveted “Doc” Spike Inspirational Award. Well Done all...

VE Report: Larry – KD4VOM read the VE report from John -- AC7WW

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Three new Technician class operators joined the ranks of the Amateur Service. One candidate passed both element two and three to become a General class. One candidate upgraded to General and one candidate upgraded to Extra.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Harry, W7HSA, Linda, AB7YL, Joe, W7RQ, Steve, AD7VL, Al, AC7BU , Jon, AD7AW, Rich, KK7VH, Jim, N7RHX, Steve, AD7AB and Mike, AD7TH

The Radio Club of Tacoma VE team wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The next scheduled testing session will be next year on Tuesday, January 12th, 2010.

PROGRAM: Ken Gibson – N7ELF introduced our special guest and presenter:

Ward Silver – N0AX

Ward Silver – N0AX presented his latest "2fer" package:

"I Can See UA0 From Here" the story of the 2008 W1AW/KL7 Special Event station in conjunction with the Alaska ARRL Ham Radio Convention, replete with photos and stories of this fun event, and :

"So You Think You Have Enough Towers" – A

Photo Visit to WOAIH who has what must be one of the largest ham tower and antenna arrays in existence. Even Ward couldn't count 'em all. The intriguing part of this virtual tour stemmed from the fact that Paul Bittner, – WOAIH is a retired minister and most of his antennas and towers were acquired self help, and usually donated to him for taking them down. If you missed this one you missed a really powerful story of dedication and ability.

Radio Club of Tacoma

Following the Presentation Ward entertained questions on not only the presentation but of anything relating to ARRL, since he is a contributing editor. There were several interesting topics discussed, including the new Technician question bank and manual which will be used come next July. Ward also let us know that with his help the current 2010 ARRL Handbook has had a major revision and is worth investigating as a reference document in every Ham's bookshelf.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

23 December General Membership Meeting:

President Jill – K7JIL polled the members present on whether to have a meeting on December 23rd or not. The majority of the members present elected to have the 23 December meeting.

Straight Key Night: Rich – KR7W is hosting the ARRL Straight Key night at the Clubhouse again this year. On New Year's Eve around 4 pm all are welcome to gather and socialize, observe, or try some straight key CW, and see the results of the "Wooden Key" contest.

HINTS AND KINKS:

10 Meters: Ten Meters is showing signs of opening up, give it a shout...

TUNING AND TRAFFIC:

Eyeball QSO: Nick – K7MO reports a random encounter at a Taco Bell restaurant with a fellow whose hat had "V63ZM", a Micronesia Ham call. Turned out it was Ian Parsons – K5ZM of Portland, and Nick had made a contact with him during the Micronesia operations.

From Ward – W0AX's ARRL Contest Newsletter

NEW HF OPERATORS - THINGS TO DO

Use your 10 meter SSB privileges to get on for the [ARRL 10 Meter Contest](#) this weekend. A mobile whip will do just fine - you can trim down a full-size CB whip to resonate on the 10 meter band. (The final length will be about 98 inches, so cut off 1/2-inch at a time and check SWR.) The exchange for US and VE stations is a signal report and your state, while DX (yes, there will be DX to work!) gives out the signal report and serial number of the QSO.

DOOR PRIZE:

A MFJ Dual Band Mag Mount was won by Ollie AD7CC, and a cigarette lighter 12 extension cord was won by TomKE7LDC

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm

Logger's Bark January 2010

General meeting minutes December 23rd 2009

The 23 December 2009 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Jill Palmer K7JIL called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL

Secretary:: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM

Treasurer:: Joe Lester K7AWJ

Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY

Board Member: Harry Adams – W7HSA

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 43 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by President Jill – K7JIL

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: Alan Hughes KB7SVU reported on Tressie Hughes – KC7BAL's battle with colon cancer. Tressie has lost weight and is undergoing chemotherapy. Jill – K7JIL reports Morel W6LIX has suffered a fall and hurt his wrist

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Repeater Committee: Al Lentz – W7AML reports the repeater committee will be taking the 147.28 repeater down on 28 December to relocate it to the first floor.

PROGRAM: Ken Gibson – N7ELF_Introduced Jim Hatfield – KE7VWI_who presented tonight's program.

An Overview of the Elecraft K3

Presented by Jim Hatfield – KE7VWI

Jim provided a detailed exploration of the Elecraft Company and their major products, including the K2 and K3 transceivers. These radios can be for the turn on and operate, or the builder hams, and can be ordered fully manufactured, or in kit form. They have a bewildering array of options and are in a constant state of improvement and feature development. The Elecraft Company is particularly responsive and is US owned and operated by amateur radio and contesting enthusiasts. By all measures

Radio Club of Tacoma

the Elecraft transceivers appear at the top of the charts in performance and selectivity.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Topic: Speaker/Call

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No Open House 26 December: Jill – K7JIL reminded all that the clubhouse will not be open on Saturday, December 26th due to the Christmas Holiday.

Straight Key Night: Rich – KR7W reminded and invited all to attend this year's Straight Key Night at the Clubhouse on New Year's Eve. SKN will kick off around 4 pm and could run until around 8 pm. Come do some Straight Key CW, watch, socialize, and observe the "Wooden Key" contest. It is pot luck, so bring something you like to snack on if you choose.

Towers and Beams: Alan – KB7SVU is still in the "Tower" business, and has respectable amounts of 25 Rhone and other tower materials as well as some beam elements for sale.

HINTS AND KINKS:

Steppir Accessory: Nick K7MO brought and discussed a Steppir tuning relay offered by N8LP

The N8LP SteppIR Tuning Relay detects when your SteppIR antenna is actively tuning and blocks your amplifier from inadvertently operating until tuning is complete. Locking your amplifier out prevents you from transmitting high power into the SteppIR elements while tuning, which is easy enough to do during the heat of a contest or when pouncing on a web-cluster link. Since FluidMotion rates its SteppIR antennas to 200 watts during tuning, the SteppIR Tuning Relay may prevent an expensive and time-consuming mistake.

The circuit uses current-sensing to trip a relay when the SteppIR motors are running. The box is placed in the power lead between the SteppIR power supply and the SteppIR controller. One of the main design goals was to provide a device that would be external to the SteppIR controller, and not require internal modifications of the controller.

DOOR PRIZE: A small battery operated fluorescent lamp was won by Larry – KD4VOM

Logger's Bark January 2010

New Feature!!

... Or possibly an old feature, resurrected...

We here at your local Loggers Bark are trying to re-start an old newsletter tradition; that being a list of those folks who have checked-in to the Tuesday night net on the club's 147.280 repeater.

I know it looks a bit funky... and if your call still has the incorrect number of chack-in's all I can say is be patient...

We're still working on it!

73 Gary WG7X
Editor, Barkie...

AB 7 WJ 4	AC 7Q N 3	AD 7B K 2	AD 7E U	AD 7F F	K5 EA F 3	K7 AS Q	K7 A WJ
K7 DB U 3	K7 H W	K7J IL	K7 KH J	K7 V W A	K7 W A	KA 7I OX 3	KB 7Q AG 3
KC 7J W S	KC 7O QN	KC 7V UM 2	KD 4V O M 3	KD 7R KT	KE 7E HG	KE 7E W H 3	KE 7L DC 3
KE 7L DE 3	KE 7L VU 3	KE 7N XM	KF 7B AO 3	KF 7F EB 4	KK 7Q W 2	KR 7W 3	N7 EL F
N7 JAJ	N7 KN Q	N7 O MS 3	N7 Q OZ	N7 YF E	NA 7U S	NS 7S N	W7 CB Y 2
W 7E C 3	W7 EX C 3	W7 HS A 4	W7 M WL	W7 W G	W E7 P	W G7 X 4	

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm



The Doc Spike Museum Presents

These Old Timey Ham Radio Activities...

DATE	TIME	W7OS MUSEUM ACTIVITY
Sun, 1/10	1000-1300 PST	Straight Key Century Club Anniversary Contacts with other members.
Sat, 1/16	1300-1600 PST	Straight Key Century Club Anniversary Contacts with other members.
Sun, 1/24	1200-1500 PST	Straight Key Century Club Anniversary Contacts with other members.
Sat & Sun 1/30-1/31	1000-1400 PST	Classic Exchange (CX) Boat Anchor contact party. Old gear contacts old gear using CW.
Sat & Sun 2/13-2/14	1000-1400 PST	Classic Exchange (CX) Boat Anchor contact party. Old gear contacts old gear using AM.



Stop by the Museum and experience the magic of old time ham radio... Like 15 YO Everett Sutton, 7DJ, of Port Angeles did back on April 13, 1924. Ev made contact with the Bowdoin- a ship frozen in the Arctic waters using a one tube oscillator running the QRP power of 5 watts. Way to go Ev!

Experience the same miracles of ham radio in the W7OS Museum

Dateline: September 2010

Sparky's "View from the Shack"

This and that around the club, and more...

Sparky's welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.

Our Legacy

- Our Legacy...
- Mystery photo
- Clubhouse Past and Present
- View from the Shack

The Radio Club of Tacoma enjoys a unique benefit that most clubs only dream of. We actually own our own building. According to an interview with Dick Ryan W7RGD the story goes that the Club was just winding down from a Field Day . It was a Sunday in the late 1950's,

and the pack up/cleanup team was taking down and packing antennas and gear, when one of our then members who was a Realtor showed up with an idea. He had found a house for sale on Washington avenue and thought the club might be interested in trying to purchase the house. The seven or eight members there talked it over and decided to make an offer on the house. They all signed a paper plate committing to purchase the building, and the die was cast. The Realtor made the offer, which was accepted and the Club acquired a mortgage with a membership commitment to pay off. In an of itself it was a statement of loyalty and commitment by the membership, but the story doesn't end there. Another of our then members offered a proposal to the membership, He would pay off the loan in full, in return for the club membership paying him back on a reasonable schedule, and without any interest. The story has another chapter. When the present house was purchased, there was another house next door, where an elderly lady lived. When she passed away, the club purchased that building and because it was in poor repair, they tore it down and viola, we had a parking lot.

We'll keep the Mystery Photo going though.

Mystery Photo

This one is a mystery to Sparky too. If anyone knows who the YL/XYL is we'd love to know, the photo indicates it was taken in April of 1971



Our Clubhouse, Past and Present

Since the mid-fifties, we have had the benefit of our own facility, together with the responsibility for maintaining and preserving it. Sparky decided to do a look back at some mid 1900's teamwork to maintain the building, and add some comparative recent photos of our Ham Radio Home.

Here then are some of the 1960/70 photos with care and maintenance in pro-





Here's a recent photo of the clubhouse, and a few of the 2009 spring cleaning exercise.

We have a new front porch, new window blinds and all the outside windows have been scraped clean and repainted. Several new lighting projects are underway, beginning with recessed lighting in the Museum, as well as expanded yard light-



Attaboys:

This month's Attaboys go to the newly reconstituted RCT Repeater team who is closing in on the final move of the current 147.28 repeater to the first floor equipment rack, and is engaged in planning our future repeater operations requirements including looking at the Crawford Mountain 147.38 repeater..

View from the Shack...

Its that time of year when we look back to fond memories and accomplishments in the year past, as well as turn to the future, and set our course for the coming year.

We have added some new faces to our management team, Si Nelson, Ken Gibson, and welcome former Director Al Lentz back to the board.

Sparky

"Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else"

The Disclaimer...

These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.



News from the Clifford J Doc Spike Museum

By Rich KR7W

Wooden Key Building Contest Results— A winner has been selected.



Wooden Key entry from Harry N7DOE.

As stated in last month's edition of this column... the Museum held a "Wooden Straight Key Building Contest". The main rule was that the entry had to be made out of at least 90 percent wood. The judging criteria was: Creativeness, Functionality, Appearance, and Morse sending feel.

Whilst the On the Air CW was commencing in the Museum during the Straight Key Night operating event... The judges, Myself KR7W, Al N7OMS, and Chuck AC7QN (plus other critics and/or self proclaimed experts) tested the keys with a refurbished 1954 Bud Code oscillator.

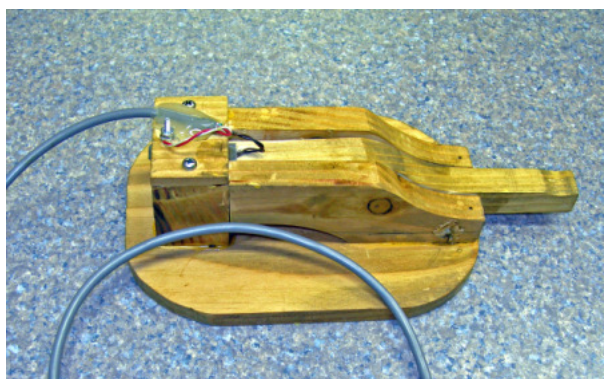
The judging took place over a couple of hours where we tested the keys, walked away, conversed about our findings, went back and retested, and chatted again. The judging was difficult (for me anyway) because the only bribe I received was for only \$15 and it was offered to me in front of the crowd. It shows that this entrant wanted the coveted and prestigious title of

Wooden Key Contest Winner for 2010. However, my opinion would have been persuaded if the \$\$ amount was more than tripled and the act of bribery was privately executed.

Four club members entered their crafty creations. Harry N7DOE, Alan W7AML, Steve AD7VL, and Mike W7GHW.

The key from Harry N7DOE looks to be made of solid oak and modeled from the camel back keys from the old steam ship days. This key's attributes are: Looks very nice and the wood has a nice feel to it. The spring mechanism and hidden contacts were cleverly done. However, it is sort of light weight as the base must be held in place whilst sending. The pivot mechanism could use some adjustments as it seemed sticky. Harry mentioned that he built this key "at the last minute". Ole Rob WB7QCS agreed that it was quickly created. The judges agreed that this entry showed the best wood working skills of the lot: Nice quality in a short time.

The judges thought that the key entered by Alan W7AML was the 'most clever design' of the lot. Alan's creation has a hand carved look to it, and a large base that prevents tipping. The clever part about this key is that there is no spring mechanism. The key lever returns to its open contact position by gravity. The parts are



Wooden Key entry from Alan W7AML.

nicely fitted together and the pivot is a dowel that is pressed in place. The contacts can be accessed by a small removable piece.

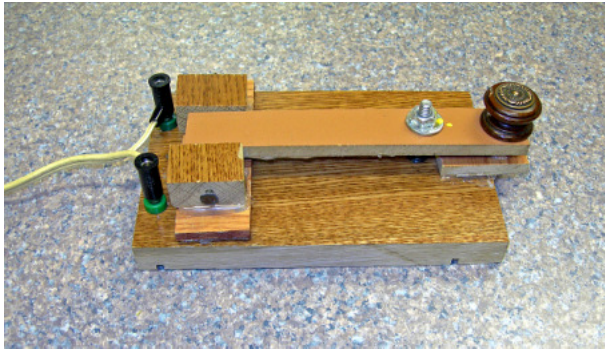
Some of the items that the judges thought could use some improvement were... There is no lever spring tension adjustment and there is no

....go to next page

Radio Club of Tacoma

knob at the end of the lever to give the key a traditional feel. Lastly this key would not work if the user was upside down. (Upside down? Yah, Joe... it is a small thing, but we want to be good critics and cover all of the bases).

At a club meeting about a month ago... Mike W7GHW announced he was building a Wooden Key (because Rich KR7W and Al N7OMS challenged him) for Straight Key Night... he challenged all of the members present. Taking this challenge seriously, Steve AD7VL came up with his design. Steve's creation is made out of

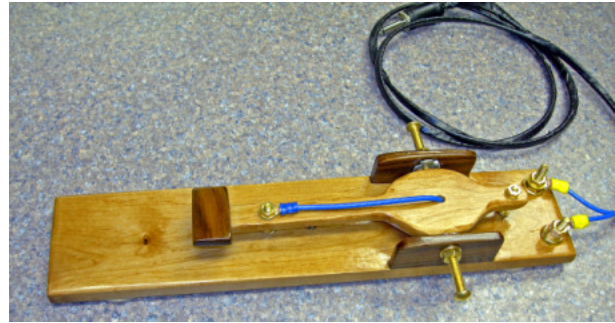


Entry from Steve AD7VL.

hardwood flooring scraps left over from his living room remodel. Steve calls his key the "Abe Lincoln" because he uses a penny as one of the electrical contacts. The things the judges thought were positive about this entry are: it is built solidly and is heavy. It has good balance and does not tip. The spring tension on the arm is easily adjustable and with the drawer pull as a key knob... this key has a good feel to it. The judges thought that this key had the best 'Morse code sending feel' to it. The "greenies" in the group gave Steve points for using material that would have gone to the landfill otherwise. Even the rusty nail as the pivot was recycled. But the judges did not like the fact that the spring tensioning mechanism is also the contact spacing adjustment. So, for me... I like a nice crisp feel to the lever going up and down. In order to get the feel I desired... I had to make the contacts nearly touch which gave the key a "hair trigger" kind of feel to it. During the Straight Key Night event... I used this key to call CQ and it performed well.

The next key we judged was from Mike W7GHW (W7-Gig Harbor Washington!, Mike proudly exclaims). Mike's key was made from

Logger's Bark January 2010



Entry from Mike, W7- Gig Harbor Washington.

expensive looking (maybe even exotic) wood. It is obvious that Mike has woodworking skills. Mike's creation is full of interesting contrasts... from the dark wood (appears to be walnut) sending knob and side supports versus the lighter wooden (maybe cherry?) base and lever. This key is long and slender and pretty... sort of like Elle Mcpherson, the tall slender blond fashion model in a black dress... which contrasts with the large #12x24 oversized brass screws at the pivot points and to secure the electrical connections. The key contacts are the same brass screws. The wire that connects this key to the rig is #10 or 12 AWG, large enough to handle the largest spark gap transmitter in the Queen's Fleet of steamships.

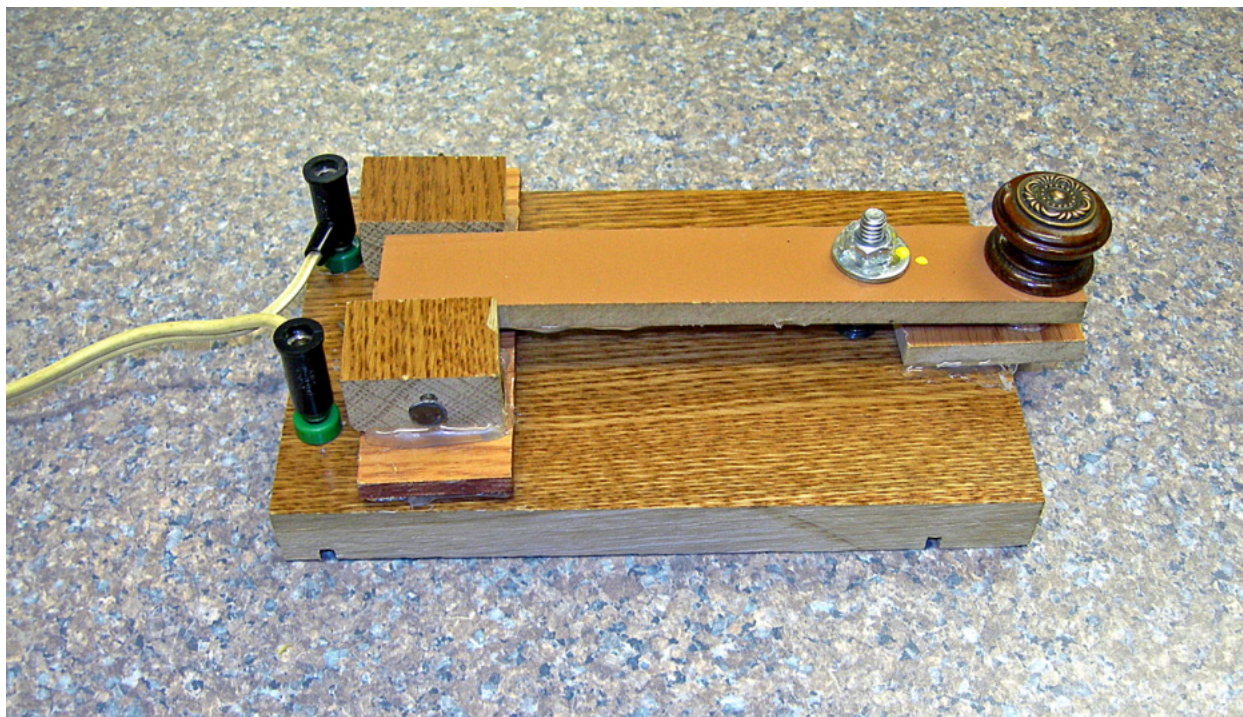
One of the YL hams at the gathering mentioned to me that she thought the key was pretty to her because it was so slender and sleek. The judges appreciated the appearance and the woodworking skills offered and the fact that the key did not tip whilst sending code. But this key has a lightweight feel to it and it was hard (for me) to send Morse with it because I had to help the lever back up to the open position and the knob is not round.

The judges met at the Local Watering Hole to celebrate our success at Straight Key Night and to determine the 2010 Wooden Key Contest Winner.... **Which is _? _? _? _? _? . The winner's name is located elsewhere in this months Barkie.** Readers... take a few minutes to decide who you would choose based on what I've written. See if you agree with the judges.

Next month... a Straight Key Night Review.

Thanks Joe for reading this bunk... Best Regards...Rich KR7W

AD7VL Winner!



Wooden Key Contest Winner... cont'd...

The winner is **Steve Blacksten, AD7VL**, for creating the best and easiest to use key of all of the entries. What? Joe disagrees. Look Joe... read what I wrote again. If you still think the judges should change their minds... \$\$ talks.

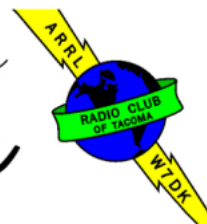
In this contest... there is no runner up. But, Mike W7 - Gig Harbor Washington is awarded the "**Ladies Choice Award**" for his excellent creation of the Elle Mcpherson model key.

Thanks to all four of the members who went out of their way to take on this challenge.

Regards,,,, Rich KR7W



The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



The Logger's Bark is the **OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA**... and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

Club Officers

President: Jill Palmer, K7JIL, 253-539-7772, hamtalker2@msn.com
Vice Pres: Rick Rose, KE7EMW, 253-581-7673 rick-rose@comcast.net
Secretary: Ken Gibson, N7ELF n7elf@junett.com
Treasurer: Joe Lester, K7AWJ73radio@gmail.com

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

Al Burleson, K7HW burleca@mashell.com
Harry Adams, W7HSA RCT@xemapsl.com
Al Lentz, W7AML alentz@centurytel.net
Gary McAdams, WG7X wg7x@arrl.net
Frank Palmer, AC7JY ac7jy@msn.com

Logger's Bark Staff

Editor in Chief: "Stop the Presses!!" Gary McAdams, WG7X, thebark@comcast.net
Printer/Publisher: "Start the Presses" John Clarke, AC7WW, 253-475-5854
Reporters: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma...
Send articles to: thebark@comcast.net or The Bark, 11405 88th Ct SW, Lakewood, WA 98498

The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org. If a condensed paper copy is needed... then let the Printer/Publisher listed above know.

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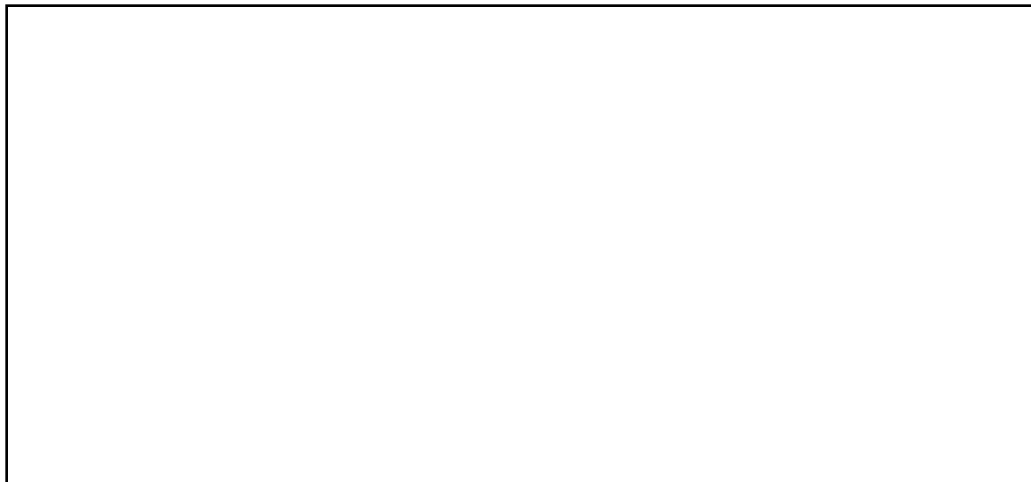
The Loggers Bark

Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.

PO Box 11188

Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:



JANUARY 2010 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays January 13th and 27th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday January 6th 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz.

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz.